



Weekly Information & Communication



January 26, 2015

Spring Conference Save-the-Date

Our Spring Conference will be held April 7 & 8, 2015 in Helena at the Wingate Hotel. The agenda is still being developed, but please [register now](#). We anticipate having a full day on Tuesday the 7th and wrapping up mid-afternoon on Wednesday the 8th. The state rate at the hotel will be available Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday night for those who will need to travel further distances.

You may book your room anytime between now and March 15, 2015 by calling 406-449-3000 or emailing Tiffanie Zavarelli at Agm@winwingatehelena.com, identify yourself as being with "The Montana WIC Program". The state will reimburse costs for two staff members from each local agency (required attendance); however, we encourage more participation where possible. There will be content and training related specifically to retailer activities, so it is highly encouraged to send your LARC. Stay tuned for more details.

Next Local Agency Conference Call

Our next local agency conference call will be March 5, 2015 at 9:00 am. Please ask that your dietitian (on staff or contract) attend the call if possible as we will be training on and discussing food package 3 approvals, special formulas, and Medicaid coverage guidelines for formulas and medical foods. If your RD is not able to attend, please assure that someone is on the call who can explain the information to them. Thank you!

WIC Clinic Outreach plans

Montana's State Plan ([Chapter 4, Policy 4.9, Outreach](#)) says that all local clinics will develop and implement an outreach system that works for their community. There are many reasons that can be thought of for including outreach in the day to day operation of WIC clinics. One thing that is pretty obvious as to why you are asked to participate in outreach is, of course, finding potential participants to grow your agency! Right? But it is also an important **awareness** tool for the entire community – schools, medical professionals, hospitals, community leaders, churches, service organizations, and many others.

Please see [Outreach Plan 2015-16](#) to use as your template. When everyone in the community becomes aware of WIC's presence and availability, a lot of great things can happen because THERE ARE ALWAYS OPENINGS IN WIC! Please spread the word.

Technical Support Over the Holidays

As some of you noticed, last Monday and early Tuesday SPIRIT was down. Ultimately it was a server issue and when discovered on Tuesday morning was quickly fixed. We recognize that there are times when the state office is closed and some local agencies across the state may be operating. While traditional State support may not be available, there is some IT support on-call through the department for bigger issues like the network and servers. The number to call if the issue is potentially bigger than SPIRIT is (406) 444-9500.

Our next holiday is President's Day, February 16th. If you will have your clinic open and have concerns about support, please contact Kate at 444-4747.

January Time Study Wrap-Up

January is about to end...The clock is running out for the month of January. Please wind up tracking the time you spent working for WIC. We appreciate all of the great work local agency staff complete day after day and thank you, again, for incorporating this additional duty into your busy schedule this month!

Oral Health Survey

Last week we posted this survey with the cover letter. This serves as a reminder that if you have not yet completed the survey, please do so by January 29th. Also, some of you have provided feedback that multiple responses to some of the questions was not allowed in the set-up, this has been fixed and this new link allows you to fully answer all of the questions. If you would like to re-take the survey, please do. Thanks!

[Take the survey now.](#)

VENA Webinar January 28th

There will be a VENA webinar this Wednesday from 12:00-1:00 pm Mountain Time. Please review the [login information](#). Submit appropriate paperwork for WIC CEU credit to Chris Fogelman.

SNAP-ED Seasonal Produce Guide

The [SNAP-ED Seasonal Produce Guide](#) is a great resource. There is [additional information](#) when you click on the produce item. Nutrition information, recipes, and other information sheets can be used for participant education and more. You can also sign-up for their newsletter.

Magic Moments of Parenting

A new [Zero to Three video series](#) shows how everyday moments in parenting work "like magic" when it comes to developing a child's brain, encouraging literacy, cultivating play, or responding to a child's unique temperament. Bonus materials feature a user's guide and parent handouts. These are not WIC nutrition education items, but your participants may be very happy for a reliable source of child development and parenting information.

USDA Certification Policy Tip of the Week

Question: The WIC Regulations, Section 246.7(j)(4), says that at least during the initial certification visit, each participant, parent or caretaker shall receive an explanation of how the local food delivery system operates and shall be advised of the types of health services available, where they are located, how they may be obtained and why they may be useful. What information should be included in this program explanation to the clients?

Answer: According to Policy Memo WIC Policy Memorandum 2008-1, State agencies must establish policy and procedures to ensure that their local staffs provide the following information to each participant:

- The purpose of the WIC Program is to provide nutritional support, i.e., education and strategies for a healthy diet, supplemental foods, referrals and breastfeeding promotion and support, during critical times of growth and development, to improve health and achieve positive health outcomes.
- The nutrition assessment process is necessary to identify nutrition needs (e.g., medical conditions, dietary practices) and interests so that WIC can provide benefits that are responsive to the participant's wants and needs.
- The relationship between WIC staff and the participant is a partnership – with open dialogue and two-way communication – working to achieve positive health outcomes.
- WIC food benefits are prescribed for the individual, to promote and support the nutritional well-being of the participant and to help meet the recommended intake of important nutrients or foods.
- The food provided by the Program is supplemental, i.e., it is not intended to provide all of the participant's daily food requirements.
- Each participant must reapply at the end of the certification period and be reassessed for Program eligibility.
- The nature of the WIC priority system and the priority designation for the individual, if the local agency is not serving all priorities.



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A copy of all newsletters can be found on the [WIC website](#)
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